

**From:** [Semerad, Jim L.](#)  
**To:**  
**Cc:** [Alexis North](#); [Cindy Beeler](#); [Tricia Pfeiffer](#); [Kyle Olson](#); [Dihle, Mark A.](#); [Peterson, Todd F.](#); [Jahraus, Tim M.](#); [Kristen Keteles](#)  
**Subject:** road dust  
**Date:** 08/21/2012 11:32 AM

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Fyi

Regarding the road dust and traffic issues in the oil patch, the transportation officials are working to resolve issues. One of the biggest issues is the need for truck bypasses in Williston. Because of the immediate needs, they are constructing new temporary bypasses with permanent ones to follow.

If you are interested in the very latest, I have pasted an article below. Note that local roads like the county road near Jackie's will continue to have some traffic; however, the overall impact is very positive..

Jim Semerad

## New bypass should improve life in Williston

Vehicles line up on U.S. Highway 2 near Williston at the intersection of where a temporary bypass around the city is being constructed. The bypass is 16 miles long and uses existing county roads.

Francis Ziegler, director of the North Dakota Department of Transportation, said he was more than happy to have his ceremonial remarks interrupted by the sound of semi trucks roaring down the road.

A 16-mile bypass that makes a lengthy and scenic swoop around northwest Williston was officially opened Monday morning, and every truck that interrupted the dedication was one that wasn't passing through an already congested oil-impacted city.

"It was music to my ears," Ziegler said.

The \$10 million bypass project is one of two major attempts to fix traffic problems in Williston by giving truckers and other drivers a way around, instead of through town.

Ziegler's office will open bids Tuesday for a second bypass that will divert traffic around the northeast side of Williston.

Both bypasses will divert traffic from the same intersection on U.S. Highway 2 north of Williston, where a major new Love's Truck Stop is being built. Until that is complete, truckers will still have to drive into town for fuel, to make local deliveries and to access a major hot water depot for fracture treatment water.

Construction on the second bypass will start this fall and hopefully be complete by the end of the year, Ziegler said.

It won't be as lengthy a route as the northwest bypass and is expected to cost about half as much, he said.

Both new bypasses will be temporary until a permanent route for each of them can be identified.

Williams County Sheriff Scott Busching said he's hoping truckers use the new bypass.

The problem is, he said, a lot of the trucks coming through now are based in Williston at dedicated truck yards.

"A lot are going to have to come into town," he said.

One incentive to use the new bypass is heavy construction on several intersections through town and Busching said he thinks truckers will head to the new bypass simply to avoid it.

Otherwise, truckers are on their own to decide which route to use.

"We can't block them out of here," he said.

Busching said the highway is dangerous. "We took five people off of there to the hospital this morning," he said. The accident involved a semi and a van transport vehicle, he said.

Ziegler said the traffic count on the highway in Williston was 28,000 vehicles last year and about one-third, or 9,000, were trucks.

He said he hopes somewhere around half of those trucks will be out on the new bypass now that it is open.

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**From:** jacki [mailto:jboid@dia.net]

**Sent:** Monday, August 20, 2012 12:28 PM

**To:** Semerad, Jim L.

**Cc:** Alexis North; Cindy Beeler; pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov; Kyle Olson; Dihle, Mark A.; Peterson, Todd F.; Jahraus, Tim M.; keteles.Kristen@epamail.epa.gov

**Subject:** Re: air?

Not that anyone cares, wants to know or is going to do anything about this, on a scale of 1-10 our air quality out here today is at least a -20. From the propane like smell coming from the Anvers site and the gas coming from the drill rig to the east there is not a hint of breathable air here today. The dust has not settled for days from the steady stream of trucks going to the completion job on the Oasis site to the south of us. The new truck route seems to have just created more problems than we had before with traffic. The dust control applied to the road lasted all of about 2 weeks and was wore off due to all the overloaded trucks using the county roads.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Semerad, Jim L.](#)

**To:** [jacki](#)

**Cc:** [Alexis North](#) ; [Cindy Beeler](#) ; [pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov](#) ; [Kyle Olson](#) ; [Dihle, Mark A.](#) ; [Peterson, Todd F.](#) ; [Jahraus, Tim M.](#) ; [keteles.Kristen@epamail.epa.gov](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 08, 2012 8:21 AM

**Subject:** RE: air?

Jacki:

In response to your email, we have checked with the local oil companies and have found that there is no monthly maintenance operation that would match up with your symptoms (see yellow highlight below).

Although your observations didn't result in an answer, it is the kind of brainstorming that may ultimately find the answer you are looking for. Since you see a pattern, I recommend that you further explore causes that could match up with the timing of your symptoms – do you frequent a certain area of your farm each month, do you come into contact with certain cattle feeds or chemicals, do you eat certain foods, etc. I know that you have probably already considered these types of possibilities but it may be something very simple yet very elusive.

**Jim Semerad**

Division of Air Quality

Manager, Permitting and Compliance

State Dept. of Health

918 E. Divide Ave. 2nd Floor

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(701) 328-5188

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Division Website:

<http://www.health.state.nd.us/AQ/Airhomepage.htm>

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**From:** jacki [<mailto:jboid@dia.net>]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 02, 2012 7:51 AM

**To:** Semerad, Jim L.

**Cc:** Alexis North; Cindy Beeler; [pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov); Kyle Olson; Dihle, Mark A.; Peterson, Todd F.; Jahraus, Tim M.; [keteles.Kristen@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:keteles.Kristen@epamail.epa.gov)

**Subject:** Re: air?

I happened to notice last night on my antibiotic perscription that I seem to have to get this refilled every month around the same time. I checked back on my daily notes and found that on or near the 30th of the past months I have noticed the strong sewer smell in the air, followed by various health problems - sinus infection, sore throat, ear infection, headache, breathing problems, burning eyes, bad leg cramps, dental problems (filings, crowns have fallen out of both our teeth, broken teeth), and sick animals. This is a constant endless circle with antibiotic treatment and on some months prednisone is necessary for both myself and Steve. I do not think this is a freak act of nature or coincidence, **is there possibly a reason for a release due to maintence or storage tank levels at certain times of the month?**

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Semerad, Jim L.](#)

**To:** [jacki](#)

**Cc:** [Alexis North](#) ; [Cindy Beeler](#) ; [pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov) ; [Kyle Olson](#) ; [Dihle, Mark A.](#) ; [Peterson, Todd F.](#) ; [Jahraus, Tim M.](#)

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 31, 2012 11:41 AM  
**Subject:** RE: air?

Jacki:

My response/comments are below in red text – I hope you find the insight helpful.

**Jim Semerad**

Division of Air Quality

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Division Website:

<http://www.health.state.nd.us/AQ/Airhomepage.htm>

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**From:** jacki [<mailto:jboid@dia.net>]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 29, 2012 3:21 PM

**To:** Semerad, Jim L.; [pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov); Kyle Olson

**Cc:** Alexis North; Cindy Beeler

**Subject:** air?

I am not sure what the change was in the area on Firday & Saturday but the air quality actually seemed better, I was starting to smell things again, like grass and hay while working in the yard. Steve and I both felt a bit better, not so tired. I noticed the cats were breathing better and their eyes were not all matted up. Now something has happened again this afternoon, I have a very sore throat and congested - I have been outside working, the cats are all coughing and noses and eyes are all matted up. We do have a north-north west wind, and there is a drilling rig to the north I can see but it is several miles away. **We checked air quality downwind of the rig last week and found no apparent problems, and you are correct, the distance is pretty substantial.** I have noticed that the new Statoil well to the west has been blowing black smoke for the past 2 days, I stopped and talked to the relief pumper on Friday morning and asked him about this - he did not know why, said there may be oil spilling into the flare. **If this has continued, we will contact them – let me know. At times intermittent smoke may come from a well; however, if a well has heavy smoke blowing for a continuous period as you describe, you can contact NDIC and the Department with specific well names and numbers for us to investigate.** Also noticed yesterday that the flare to the east on the Oasis well is burning, the flare to the west right behind us was not but the flares farther west on Oasis sites were - a lot of black smoke coming from one of them. **Again, flaring can generate a small wisp of smoke as part of normal operation but significant smoke indicates that there may be operational problems – let us know if this is the case.** There is a frack job to the south but that is at least 4 miles and the wind is not coming from that direction.

Is this H2S coming from somewhere, maybe right here on our property? **ND has a stringent H2S limit of only 50 parts per billion (ppb). Personal monitors usually alarm at 10 parts per million (which equals 10,000 ppb) to protect health. The reason ND's limit is so much more stringent is that H2S is very pungent and creates a nuisance at far lower levels. In general, odors are noticeable around 5-15 ppb for most people. Our instrument measures below these levels. The distinctive odor of H2S makes it easily identifiable, but we have not measured or smelled it in your area.**

